

Remarks

Two claims have been added to the present application by this Preliminary Amendment. Fifty-three claims are now pending. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Consideration and entry of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested.

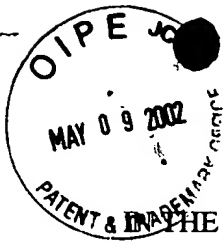
If there are any charges with respect to this amendment, or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account No. **50-0510** maintained by applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: ROBERTO AYALA ET AL.)
SERIAL NUMBER: 09/910,544) Group Art Unit: 2167
FILED: July 20, 2001) Before the Examiner:
FOR: NETWORK-BASED SUPPLY) Not Yet Assigned
CHAIN MANAGEMENT METHOD))

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Version with markings to show changes made.

A marked up version of Claim 1 is as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for facilitating supply chain collaboration in a network environment, said supply chain including an enterprise and at least one supplier, the method comprising:

~~generating and transmitting an unconstrained forecast to said at least one supplier;~~

receiving, from said at least one supplier, a supplier capability statement;

~~generating a constrained forecast using at least one supplier capability statement;~~

transmitting ~~said a constrained forecast to said at least one supplier, said constrained forecast generated using at least one supplier capability statement;~~ and

~~receiving, from said at least one supplier, a formal commitment to produce a needed supply indicated in said constrained forecast.~~

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